

For new families, the guide can also serve as an introduction to those resources. The guide is available by calling the DD Council office at (517)-334-6123.

Information and Fun Days!

The Family Support Work Group also created a brochure to educate families about recent changes in the Medicaid waiver relating to respite care. This valuable resource is also available from the Council office.

Family Fun Day in July is another Family Support Work Group project. The day brings together families and advocates alike for food, learning about resources, games, and friendship. Fun and educating families can go hand-in-hand. Families and advocates are welcome. Please contact the Council office prior to July for more information.

Please Join the Work Group!

The Family Support Work Group is always looking for interested families to join its activities. Generally, we meet the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. We encourage you to call the Council office to learn how you can help make family supports more available in Michigan. We look forward to hearing from you!

2006

Family Support Work Group



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THE FAMILY SUPPORT WORK GROUP.....PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST

Contrary to popular opinion, families and friends, not paid providers or institutions, are the main providers of care.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's Family Support Work Group (FSWG) has a two-part mission statement. It is: Increase the quality, availability and range of family support services statewide; expand awareness of the need and benefit of these services.

Work Group Supports Families

The work group is a key ingredient in the Council's advocacy programs. To both the Council and work group, "family support" means services, supports, and other assistance provided to families. To keep families together, the FSWG, as a representative of the Council, advocates and advises on behalf of, and with, families throughout Michigan.

Strengthening the Family

FSWG believes assistance to a family is designed to strengthen the family's role as primary caregiver and prevent unnecessary

out-of-home placement. This, the work group's members believe, maintains family unity. Also of major importance to the FSWG is outreach to families across the state who are members of Michigan's many minority populations.

Our Focus

The range of topics discussed by the FSWG include:

- Parent training and resources;
- Providing therapy and assistive technology;
- Personal assistant services;
- Support for families headed by aging caregivers;
- Vehicle and home modifications;
- Assistance with extraordinary expenses associated with developmental disabilities supports;
- Identifying key policies and influencing policymakers by providing testimony on subjects important to family support.

Work group projects include a guide listing agencies and their toll-free numbers for families and supporters to locate resources.